



VOL. XVIII.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING,

APRIL 11, 1850.

NO. 15.



Our Home, our Country, our Brother Man.

Encouragement for the Growth and Manufacture of Flax.

From the experiments that have been tried, we think there can be no doubt that the Northern and Western States can raise flax as abundantly and as profitably as the Southern States do cotton.

We trust that the time is not far distant when this will be more completely demonstrated by the actual operation of vats for rotting and mills for scouring or breaking and spinning the flax, in different parts of the country. There is no sort of need of our sending so many millions of our dollars to Holland and Ireland for the various descriptions of linen manufactures. We can raise the raw material here with as much success and ease as it can be done anywhere else. We can prepare the raw material here as well as it can be done anywhere else. We can spin and weave it here as well as anywhere else. Why do we not do it? Because we lack faith. Because it is hard work to get out of an old beaten track and try a new one. Because it is slow work to break up the connections of a long established trade of one country with another, in a particular branch, by the establishment of similar manufactures at home. We feel confident, however, that by perseverance and unwearied effort on the part of those who have commenced this revolution in the linen trade, the time will come when we can export linens as abundantly as we now import them.

We have been led to these reflections by the personal of a pamphlet, kindly sent us by Captain Isaac Gage of this city, who has hitherto been so actively and zealously engaged in the business of flax raising and flax dressing among us.

As many of our readers in Maine are already much interested in this business, and many more beginning to be, we shall draw rather largely on our abstracts of the teachings which the pamphlet contains. We trust that this spreading of information upon a subject of so much importance to the community, will be of service.

The pamphlet asserts that the cultivation and manufacture of flax, in the Northern States, have become subjects of great importance. Until recently, the difficulties of rotting and dressing, and the low price in market, or rather the want of a market, has been disheartening to agriculturists.

These difficulties are now removed, as the process of rotting by artificial heat, the new and improved machinery for breaking and dressing, and the machinery now in operation and soon going into operation for manufacturing, is likely very soon to produce an entire renovation in this branch of business.

It here goes on to state some facts in regard to each of these processes, a part of which we will copy.

Of Rotting. Some time since, say five years ago, Messrs. Billings & Harrison, of the State of Missouri, obtained a patent for rotting flax by artificial heat; and at a later date a patent was granted to Messrs. Bernard & Schenck, in England, for the same invention.

This process of rotting flax has been introduced into various parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the facts reported to the "Royal Society for the promotion and improvement of the growth of flax." The flax business has become so important and profitable to them, that, like those engaged in the cotton business in this country, any thing that will facilitate and cheapen the process of its manufacture, is eagerly adopted. Hence, the improvement in the mode of rotting seems to be more generally adopted in Ireland than in our Northern States.

The following extracts from the last report of this Royal Society, may not be uninteresting to those of our readers who are inquiring into this business.

"Soil and Rotation." By attention and careful cultivation, good flax may be grown on various soils; but some are much better adapted for it than others. The best is a sward, dry, deep, loam, with a clay subsoil. It is very desirable that the land should be properly drained and subsoiled; as when this is saturated with either under-ground or surface water, good flax cannot be expected. Without water there cannot be success—different soils require different rotations. In the best soils of Flanders, flax is grown in the third year of a seven-course rotation, or the fifth year of a ten-course rotation.

Preparation of the Soil. One of the points of the greatest importance in the cultivation of flax, is by thorough under-draining where needed, and by careful and repeated cleansing of the land from weeds, to place it in the finest, deepest, and cleanest state. This will make room for the roots to penetrate, which they will often do to a depth equal to one-half the length of the stem above ground.

Sowing. The pamphlet, or rather the report on this branch of the business, says that the seed best adapted for the generality of soils, is the Russia, although Dutch has been used in many districts, for a series of years, with success. American seed does not generally suit well, as it is apt to produce a coarse, branched stem. If used, it should be on deep, loamy soils. Our readers must bear in mind that the committees are speaking for lands in Ireland. No doubt, flax seed from different countries produces a difference in the plant, somewhat (though perhaps not so great an extent) as Indian corn from different sections of the world.

Manure for the Flax Crop. Recent chemical investigations have shown that the fibre of flax does not absorb from the soil certain matters, although not in so large a proportion as several other commonly cultivated crops. To supply these, the following compound has been proposed

as a manure, which may be sown broadcast on the land, prior to the last harrowing before sowing the flax seed.

For an acre—muriate of potash, 30 lbs.; common salt, 25 lbs.; burned or calcined gypsum, (plaster of Paris), 34 lbs.; bone dust, 54 lbs.; sulphate of magnesia, (Epsom salts), 56 lbs.

This compound would cost about two dollars and a half, which, if it is as good as some say it is, will be cheap manuring for an acre.

Sowing Grass Seeds. The committee do not advise sowing clover and grass seed with the flax, as these plants are apt to injure the root ends of the flax. They however say that carrots may be sown in drills, and after the flax is off may be hoed and cleaned. We think that in this country the most profitable method is to put in nothing but flax. A good crop of flax on the ground is enough, without taxing the fertility of your soil with any other crop the same season.

We have now brought you along to the time of growth; here we will leave you till next week, when the pulling, and other operations, will be the subject of consideration.

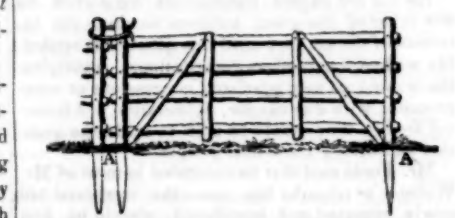
"Seem to Prefer other Flour."

The Ploughman, of last week, says that the soil of Maine is a good wheat soil, but the farmers of that State seem to prefer buying their flour to raising it.

Aye, true, friend Buckminster—"seem to prefer"—why you dear soul, they seem to do so, but they can't help themselves. That little, almost invisible insect, the weevil or wheat fly, is too mighty for them. Thousands of acres of wheat in Maine, have, for a series of years past, although growing finely and giving cheering promise of a good harvest, at last yielded nothing but straw. Our farmers have been discouraged and impoverished by these repeated losses. Time has been when wheat was exported from Maine, and we hope such times will come again. Attention is beginning to be paid to raising winter wheat, which generally gets out of the way before the weevil commences its ravages. Every year we learn a little better how to manage this crop, and to succeed better with it than the year previous, and it "seems" not improbable that the farmers of Maine will not always appear to prefer buying their flour to raising it. This "going to New York to mill" has been a serious drawback to the prosperity of Maine.

Movable Fence.

A little more than a year ago we published in the Farmer the following plan of a fence which we copied from the Cultivator. By request we insert it again. It has been adopted by some of our subscribers who like it very much.



In order to make it, two cedar stakes are necessary for each panel. To these are nailed narrow strips of board or light rails; two shorter strips are nailed in an upright position, at equal distances from the two outer posts; braces are then nailed at each end, as represented in the cut. This makes a light but very strong panel. When they are set in the ground, a wire, or a hoop of iron or wire, may be put over the tops of the two adjoining stakes, which will hold them together. When not in use, they may be carefully laid away. The following description of it we take from the Albany Cultivator:

"Hurdles, or movable fences for confining animals to particular portions of ground, are necessary in many cases, where soiling is extensively practiced; and the operation of this confining them, possesses in part, the advantages derived from soiling, no portion of the field being touched but that on which they are feeding, which is left till all the herbage is consumed. The manure, being also thus limited to one spot, may be plowed under before much loss is occasioned by evaporation.

A mode of erecting this kind of fence, lately witnessed by the writer, at the residence of Charles Downing of Newburgh, is at once so neat, cheap and useful, that a figure and description may be of value to others. The fence consists of separate frames or 'lengths,' one of which is shown by the above figure, with a sharpened post at each end, A. A., driven into the ground in the ground by a crow-bar, and secured at the top by withering together, though the latter is not indispensable. These pieces are made of round poles or sticks split in two, the flat sides being placed next to the cross bars, which are fastened to them by wrought nails at the point of intersection. The points of the posts are driven into the ground to a depth of about fourteen to sixteen inches.

These frames or lengths of fence, are four feet high and eight feet long—they cost, besides the material, two dollars and twenty-five cents per dozen in making, or thirty-seven cents a rod. The material would add about thirteen cents more, making half a dollar a rod, for the whole.

Two men put up thirty rods of the fence, securing the tops by withers, in about three hours.

J. J. THOMAS.

Digestion. Of all articles of food, boiled rice is digested in the shortest time—an hour. As it also contains eight-tenths nutritious matter, it is a valuable substance for diet. Tripe and pigs feet are digested almost as rapidly. Apples, if sweet and ripe are next in order. Venison is digested almost as soon as apples. Roasted potatoes are digested in half the time required by the same vegetables boiled, which occupy three hours and a half—more than beef or mutton. Bread occupies three hours and a quarter. Stewed oysters and boiled eggs are digested in three hours and a half—an hour more than is required by the same articles raw. Turkey and geese are converted in two hours and a half, and an hour sooner than a chicken. Roasted veal, pork, and salt beef, occupy five hours and a half—the longest of all articles of food.

Treatise on Orcharding.

BY M. B. SEARS.

The Apple, in all its improved varieties, originated from the wild Crab-apple of Europe. It is of more importance than all other fruit raised in the temperate regions, and is used more as an article of food and luxury. All persons like the apple in all the varied uses to which it is applied, and would consume this fruit during the year, if a suitable quality and quantity were grown.

Maine should grow apples for the million. Her soil and climate are as well adapted to their growth as any part of the globe; producing a firmer more enduring fruit than lower latitudes. Land and labor are cheaper in Maine than in most apple-growing countries. Our facilities for transportation are as good, and as cheap, and are every year increasing; our coast is indented with harbors, and our interior crossed by rivers and marked with the tracks of the iron horse which never tires.

Fruit-growing is the legitimate business of Maine, especially of Kennebec, Franklin and Oxford counties; and the awakening energies of their industrious, sturdy yeomanry will soon clear their sunny mountain and hill sides with "rich bloom-dusted, melting, luscious fruit." Attention is being drawn and fixed upon this subject. An orchard of twelve acres, well cared for, will yield a greater net profit than any farm in Maine. It would contain about one thousand trees, yielding at least one barrel each, annually. Prime apples have averaged, and ever will average, \$1.00 per barrel; and \$200.00 will pay the culture and harvesting—leaving a net profit of \$800.00. Do you believe it? You cannot convert it; this estimate is too low.

Although Orchardists are bestowing more thought and attention on this important subject, yet what are we doing, or rather, what are we not doing to insure competency and ease? We are not digging about, manuring, pruning, scraping and washing off trees, and although of late there has been most confiding talk formerly, yet far too little for the interest of a people's growth. And we are letting our old orchards descend the down-hill of life, without giving them the opportunity of transmitting their posterity to bless mankind!

What is old Kennebec, the apple garden of Maine, doing in this respect? Her orchards are decaying, with scarcely a nursery to supply their place; while Oxford and Franklin, though deficient in nurseries, are setting their hundreds of thousands of saplings per annum in their younger orchards; and they will very soon proudly bear away the palm from old Kennebec.

Soil. A sulphate of iron [copperas] formation is the best; next, a rich, deep moist and rocky loam. State is preferable to granite.

Location. The south and east slopes of hills are preferable, on account of their inclination to the sun and their security from the north and west winds. A west or even a north slope will answer very well, if it be in the lee of a steep hill. A most desirable situation, other things being equal, is beside stone walls and other fences; the trees occupy less room, are more out of the way, and flourish better.

The Nursery. Select a piece of land, of suitable soil and situation, free from weeds, and where the snow will not be likely to drift. Enrich it as for corn, and prepare it by potato culture. Sow in drills four feet apart, in the fall, with elder pines, or in the spring with ponca frozen through the winter—adding ashes or lime to neutralize the acid. Cultivate and hoe thoroughly, leaving the trees three or four inches apart in the drills.

In the spring, when two years old, carefully remove the trees from the soil, and cut off the tap root. Manure and plough, enlarging the nursery ground, and transplant in rows four feet apart—three on each foot, and twelve or fifteen feet apart, and the trees one foot apart in the rows, and cultivate with hoe crops that do not shade too much. Pruning or cropping the top, in time of growth, say July, will advance the size of the stock for engraving.

The spring after transplanting, engrave by cleft, close to the ground, all such as are of the size of a man's finger, with small, well-matured scions, leaning on the top bud. Cover the stock two inches deep with fresh earth, well pressed down.

If the nursery ground inclines to drift, remove the fence on the north and west side, or stake each section, and tie with lashing, tacking the lashing to the stake.

Crop the section when five feet high, in time of growth. Cropping at this time will enlarge the section, and cause it to throw its side-buds for branches, thereby preventing a scabrous growth in the middle of the top, which would ruin the tree as a bearer.

Allow but one branch to start from the same point, and only at those points where additional branches are needed. Train these branches upward and outward, and let nothing grow inward or crosswise; thereby producing a top wholly open to the sun and air, in order to perfect and ripen the fruit.

Transplanting. The distance depends upon the soil and location. If the soil and situation are good, thirty feet in the orchard, and twenty feet around a field are suitable distances; if bad, twenty feet in the orchard, and fifteen feet around a field, may do better. In an exposed situation, plant so high that the trees, when grown, will occupy the entire ground, in order that they may be more effectively sheltered from the wind.

in their position and to guard them from the tender mercy of horned beasts, should they chance to trespass on forbidden ground.

Manures. Animal manure is most generally applied in this State, and to good advantage; but other manures may be obtained which are often better and cheaper. Among these are washings and scrapings from the yards, roadside, back-doors and sink-spouts. For light, dry, or gravelly soils, take muck, peat or mud, one cord, exposed to the air one year, and one-third animal manure, fifteen bushels live ashes, three pecks soot, one-half bushel plaster, one bushel lime, sink-water, soda and urine. For clayey or wet soil, take light, rich loam, sand and gravel, equal parts, one-third animal manure, eight bushels ashes, one-half bushel salt, one peck plaster, one-half bushel lime, sink-water, soda and urine. Any of the manures above-mentioned, in proper quantity, may be separately applied, beneficially.

[CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]

Written for the Maine Farmer.

Mr. Birchwood's Farming Operations—1849.

MR. EDITOR: Dear Sir: In a communication of mine of April, 1849, I informed you that I had built a dam across a brook running near my house, and had dug and stoned a dairy cellar in connection with an ice vault. Early last spring I erected a shop in connection with a covering for my cellar; the floor of my shop being on a level with the floor of my cellar, and by passing a road thirty feet by the side of my little pond to my milking yard, I was enabled to carry my milk through my shop into the cellar without the trouble of lugging milk down stairs to get into my cellar. I erected a breast wheel eight feet in diameter to propel "Gault's patent churn," which will hold about eighteen gallons. So confident was I of deriving great advantage by churning milk instead of cream that as soon as the churn was put into operation I had the milk from the dairy strained and put into the churn and put it in operation, and after listening with pleasure to the music of the churn propelled with other than manual labor, you may judge of my surprise on examining the milk to find that the butter, "wantonly or wickedly refused to come!" "Wanted" for an hour or more we found that the butter had collected in particles of the size of peas, but would not collect together, thinking we had failed in consequence of the milk being too cold, we prepared by warming the milk, governing the temperature by a thermometer, and again put the churn in operation, but the butter again refused to come. The milk was again subjected to the same disappointment, Mrs. B. having to collect the butter with her hands, and the butter being so long in churning was white, soft, and of poor quality. I proposed to make another trial of churning milk, but Mrs. B. protested that she would have no part in making butter of that quality; being a modest man and "afraid of thunder," I gave up to others more experienced than myself the making of butter from milk instead of cream. I found my water power of great service in the churning process. Mrs. B. would go into the dairy alone, and after straining the cream into the churn and putting it in operation, would attend to skimming the milk, and after the butter had come, would take it to the marble table in the cellar, and again put cream into the churn, and the found ample time before breakfast to churn twice, making 80 or 90 pounds of butter. My ice vault and cellar being connected, kept my cellar cool, and during the hot dry weather of last season, we experienced no difficulty in keeping our milk perfectly sweet for thirty-six hours, which I think is all that is necessary to keep milk to get all the cream that is desirable. All the cream that will rise after it has set that length of time will make but little butter of itself and of a poor quality, and reduces the quality of the whole. Another important advantage of our ice vault, Mrs. B. availed herself of, by skimming at night the most of the cream to be churned in the morning, putting it in tin covered cans and setting it into the ice vault against the dairy alone, and after straining the cream into the churn and putting it in operation, would attend to skimming the milk, and after the butter had come, would take it to the marble table in the cellar, and again put cream into the churn, and the found ample time before breakfast to churn twice, making 80 or 90 pounds of butter.

Another and important advantage in churning by water-power is, that it relieves my hired man from a truly laborious task in churning by hand. It had become quite an objection to working for me from the fact that two of my hands must every morning off hat and jacket and sweat profusely before breakfast at the churn, and sometimes they would not finish the irksome task till after breakfast. They all declared, after the churn by water was put in successful operation, and they could sit on their milking-stools and hear the churn operating, that the music was by far sweeter than any piano in existence that ever greeted their ears.

I built a pigsty forty feet from my dairy-cellar, and conducted the skimmed milk from my cellar in a spout to a vat in my pig-pen. I built a yard 30 by 50 feet, south of my pigsty, making it dishing to hold the urine, into which I put my potato tops last fall, and into which I intend to cart soil, muck, &c., to make manure. The season of 1849, for the dairy business, was the most unfavorable of any season I ever knew. We had in this vicinity a continuous drought from the middle of May to the first of October—our pastures became quite dry and nearly destitute of all green grass by the first of August; and moving fields that were in good till, and usually producing an abundance of fall feed, had to be guarded with great care to prevent their being burnt over with fire. In many cases, people had to drive their cattle to large rivers and ponds to water them—small streams that have never been known to fail before, were entirely dry for several months. I suppose we suffered more in this vicinity by the severity of the drought, than you did in Kennebec, in Piscataquis, or Waldo. In consequence of the severe drought, our hay crop of 1849 was about two-thirds of an average crop. Our oat crop was less than half an average crop. The wheat crop was rather light, but the quality of the wheat was very good for late sown grain, but much less has been grown in consequence of being obliged to sow late to avoid the grain worm or weevil. Our corn and potato crop suffered considerably with the drought, but yielded a fair crop and of excellent quality generally. I cut the past season about one hundred tons of hay, which I secured in excellent order. I raised

150 bushels of oats and peas on 9 acres, less than half a crop—47 bushels of barley on 21 acres of well-prepared land—it being very dry, warm land, it suffered severely with the drought, affording not more than half a crop. I raised 90 bushels of Red Sea Wheat on 5 acres of corn and potato ground. The wheat suffered severely with the drought, was thin on the ground, and the heads short, but the quality is good for late sown wheat.

I raised 1000 bushels of potatoes on 41 acres, a part of which was grown on oat and pea stubble with 20 loads of manure ploughed under in the fall, and a part on green sward, with about the same quantity of green manure ploughed under in the spring, was to prepare a piece of ground very rich, (as no other shrub requires, or will even be planted, with about one and a half bushels plaster to the acre.

The largest part of my potatoes was planted the first of May, the remainder was planted the last days of May. Those I planted last I think were not thoroughly wet with rain after they were planted till after being dug in September; but with all the severity of the drought they did not exhibit the appearance of suffering for the want of moisture. I hardly ever grew a crop of potatoes which showed a more vigorous growth of vines. I think they derived great benefit from the plaster in the hill. In this connection permit me to say, that several years ago I incurred the ridicule of my neighbors in purchasing a ton of plaster to use on my farm, mostly on grass land. I tried some of it on my potatoes, and such was its wonderful effects that I measured carefully the potatoes when dug, and found that a spoonful of plaster put into the hill when planted increased the quantity one-half in rows planted by the side of those not plastered—this was on green sward, with a light dressing of manure ploughed under just before planting. The next year I applied plaster to the hill, for potatoes on green sward turned under in the fall. In the spring I applied 25 large loads of green manure to the acre, ploughed it in, and measured carefully several rows, and found that the plaster made two-fifths difference in the yield.

I raised 250 bushels of corn, 104 of beans, and six cords of pumpkins on five acres—three acres of which was green sward, on which I put 48 loads of green manure, ploughing it under a good depth, and manuring it in the hill with 34 loads of compost manure made as follows:—The season of 1848 being extremely wet, I was under the necessity of using my cast iron scraper every week almost, to collect the mud made in my milking yard by the treading of my cows, in order to make it tolerable to milk in, and in doing so I collected the mud into two piles, intending to use it in the hill for corn. I mixed 4 casks of lime with the mud during the summer, and having more milk than my hogs could well dispose of, I frequently carried the surplus to the mud heap; last spring, some two weeks before I wanted to use the manure, I shoveled it over, mixing a few loads of hog manure with it, and also applied 4 casks of lime, two barrels of plaster, and a few bushels of wood ashes, expecting in a few days to see it heat and smoke, but in that I was disappointed. The heaps appeared to settle a little, but there was no appearance of an escape of gases or fermentation going on. After I got ready to put my compost in the hill, and opened the better, I was still more disappointed, for I found the manure so hot that I could not get my bear hand in it. What prevented the escape of the gases—was it the plaster that held them? I commenced planting my corn on the compost manure the 19th of May, and the manure being hot, and the weather having the appearance of being dry, I covered the manure well before I put in my corn, and I never saw corn come quicker or more even, and on the first of July, it was the best piece of corn that I saw in this section; but the piece of ground being very dry, it suffered severely with the drought, though a very good piece of corn.

What advantage was the lime to the corn? The land is a slate soil, not deficient in lime, most certainly; was it the action of the lime on the manure, hastening decomposition and preparing the manure in a gaseous state to enter into the growth of the corn at once? I intended to plant 5 acres to corn the present season, and intend to shovel over the manure hauled out last fall, and mix two casks of lime with the manure for each acre, with two barrels of plaster, some few days before applying the manure to the hill; but to test the utility, I intend to use one heap of the manure in the old way, and will give you the result hereafter.

I have kept the past season six work oxen, one horse, one cow, fifty cows, six young cattle and twenty-five sheep.

I have sold from my dairy,	\$151.08
Received for poultry sold,	29.48
" " " " " " " "	22.86
" " " " " " " "	247.16
" " " " " " " "	18.50
" " " " " " " "	25.00
" " " " " " " "	25.00
I shall sell salt pork to the amount of	44.00
Raised 110 stone more than I had in 1848,	44.00
Permanent improvement on the farm, in building stone wall, cedar fence, and clearing new land,	\$212.08

I have paid the past season for labor and taxes, the amount of \$658.62, which would seem to leave a "balance in the treasury," if it were not for the "thousand and one" articles that have to be paid for, to say nothing of the "gewgaws" that must be had, let the "firm" be solvent or otherwise.

I intended to have written a chapter on the culture of wheat, but having extended this communication already to an unwarrantable length, I will close by subscribing myself your humble and ob't servant.

OLIVER BIRCHWOOD.

Birch Dale, Piscataquis Co., Maine, 1850.

CULTIVATING DWARF PEARS. Every intelligent fruit raiser is aware of the necessity of cultivating and manuring the soil well for dwarf pear trees. S. B. Parsons states that he has 1700 trees on four acres—that he applied to this orchard last spring, \$150 worth of manure, and gathered in the autumn 275 bushels of pears, 30 tons of sugar beets, and a large quantity of turnips and cabbages—paying the expenses of manure and cultivation, and giving the pear trees a vigorous impulse.

Cultivation of the Gooseberry.

MR. COLE. Sir: Much has been said and written concerning the Gooseberry, the cause of its disease, the mildew, and its cure. Strong soap-suds, and lime manure, have been recommended, both of which are useful in keeping the moss from the trees, and giving them a healthy appearance; but the only effectual remedy for the blight upon the berry, that I know of, is transplanting. It had been the practice of my late husband, for the last eighteen years of his life, to transplant one third of his gooseberry-trees annually. The first thing done in the garden, as soon as the frost was out of the ground in the spring, was to prepare a piece of ground very rich, (as no other shrub requires, or will even be planted, with about one and a half bushels plaster to the acre designed for transplanting, take off the shoots that had grown up around the trunk, and the trees planted out in the newly-prepared ground; the trees were set as near as possible the same depth that they had stood before, and when the holes were partly filled with earth, water poured in to settle it closely around the roots; then filled up, and the earth pressed down firm with the feet. If the work was well done, the fruit was pretty good the first year, splendid the second, and by the third it generally began to wane; but by adhering to the above-named plan, he was able to have an annual supply of perfect and delicious fruit. He had some old trees that had been transplanted as many as eight times, and it had become so much a matter of course, that they seemed to have prepared for it; their roots had become interwoven like mats, and so fast on the bottom, that when taken out of the ground they would stand erect upon its surface with a little root attached, they would live, and make new trees, if well planted out in suitable situations and climates, and as a few hours exposure to the hot sun in midday, in our climate, frequently scorches the fruit so as to make it drop from the tree, or become insipid, should situations be recommended; and the general remark is, that the shade of buildings or fences are preferable; but I take the liberty to press the subject, that it should always be an artificial shade, if any—for in dry seasons, large trees, whose roots strike deep into the earth, will of course absorb all the moisture, and leave the more feeble shrubs in their neighborhood to perish.

MRS. NOYES DARLING.

New Haven, Conn., March 15, 1850.

[New England Farmer.]

The Roller.

The Roller is an instrument of great use in husbandry, though scarcely known in many places. Those who have used it, generally testify, with one sentiment, concerning its utility. Rollers are made in various ways, but the best and cheapest way to make them, is to take the body of a tree, from six to seven or eight feet long, made as near a perfect cylinder as possible. The circumference should be so large that the roller will be very heavy. If the log is not large enough, it can be enlarged by putting three or four hoops around it, and then pin narrow pieces of plank to it, so narrow as to ply into a circle.

Grain ought to be rolled immediately after the seed is sown. The practice of rolling grain, when it is just springing up, is doubtless injurious. It damages the roots, and checks its growth a week or a fortnight. The benefits of rolling are many. It renders a loose soil more compact and solid, which encourages the growth of plants, by making the earth more close around all the roots. Neither need we fear of making the earth too compact, for no roller that can be drawn by a common team, will have that effect. In the next place, rolling keeps in the moisture, and hinders drought from penetrating. This effect is of great moment. In a dry season it may be the means of saving a crop, especially where the soil is light. In the third place, it puts the ground in a condition which will very much facilitate the mowing for hay. All the small stones, which often trouble very much the mower's scythe, are crushed into the ground; all the little ridges are levelled, the sods are flattened, and the field is made perfectly smooth.

Then, we say in conclusion, let every farmer have a roller on his farm. Don't grudge the expense of getting one. In a single year, in haying on those fields that have been rolled, you will be amply paid for the cost of the roller.

[Dollar Newspaper.]

Potatoes—Plant Early.

Farmers, plant your potatoes early. It is the best and surest mode of avoiding that now prevailing disease called the Potato Rot. This opinion I offer as one based upon actual experiment as follows. In the fore part of the month of April, 1849, I planted a small piece of ground in my garden for early potatoes. The next night after I planted them, the ground froze to the depth of three inches. I expected my seed potatoes were all frozen; but, as it afterwards proved, they were not injured in the least. Four weeks from that time I planted my field potatoes—a part of them in an adjoining field.

In the month of September I commenced digging. The garden potatoes proved to be good and almost entirely clear from the rot, while those in the adjoining lot were nearly all affected—so much so, that after sorting them and putting them in the cellar a few days, I was obliged to carry them out, and throw them away. At that time I thought perhaps the atmosphere of the cellar had some effect upon them; but upon examining my garden potatoes they were sound and clear from rot. I then concluded that the field potatoes were diseased before they were put in the cellar, and that they could not be saved.

To prove what effect the disease had upon full-grown potatoes, I threw a few of my garden-potatoes in with a few of the field potatoes, but they kept good for months; it did not effect them in the least. The potatoes were of the same kind in both plantings. [Rural New-Yorker.]

To Cure the Scratches in Horses. Wash the affected parts thoroughly with warm soap suds; rub them with a cob; and then apply beef tallow. One application will usually effect a cure. If you will rub the parts that are sore with affected, every day, with a cob, you will add nothing more.

[American Agriculturist.]

Neighbor Wilkins' Hint.

A man having purchased a worn out farm, and invested all his money in his real estate, tried hard by severe labor to make it produce a crop. After a laborious summer's work he signally failed. His crops of corn, oats, and buckwheat, were scarcely worth harvesting. Winter came on, and with it discouragement and despondency. He met his neighbor, in the language of scripture, inquired, "What shall I do?" His neighbor, in reply, in true Yankee style, answered his question by asking another. "Neighbor Wilkins, have you ever kept a hired man on your farm?" "Always." "How can you gain the greatest amount of labor in a season from his efforts?" "In the first place, give him a plentiful supply of food, for a full stomach for a laborer is a jewel; next, begin the day early, and keep steady at it." "You have answered truly; manage your farm as you do your hired man. Feed it with nourishment for vegetation; feed it full, the keep it fed. Clear the land, the keep it dig out the muck from the swamps; sow on all the ashes you can get; cart sand from the drainage of the streets. When you begin upon a field, feed it; feed it full and keep it fed. Then go to the next lot, and feed it in the same style. Such fields recollect the kindness of the owner, and they pay him for it more than fifty fold. Then plough and dig, and the reward is sure." Neighbor Wilkins opened his eyes in astonishment at his own ignorance, and said, "I see! I see! A feeble, starved man cannot work much. A poor, starved field cannot bear much." Common sense might have taught him, but it had not. Thousands, like him, "scare" gravel" for naught all their days.

Neighbor Wilkins saw where he missed it. The next year he planted four acres of corn, after he had coated the field with all the fertilizing material that he could gather during one short winter. He told me that "he had scraped all creation." November told a true story. Two hundred and sixty bushels of corn made him laugh. His wife made puddings without grumbling, and his children sat with pleasure. Thus, friend Wilkins went from field to field, and fed it as he went. In its turn it fed him, his family, his cattle. His barren farm became productive; his naked fields became clothed with herbage. He became rich. His farm was rich. Peace dwelt in his household—plenty filled his granaries, and fortune smiled upon him.

Are you an unfortunate farmer, cursed with poor land, and sinned crops? Look at Mr. Wilkins, and in the language of the Bible, "Go thou and do likewise." [Dollar Newspaper.]

To Guard the Lungs while Threshing.

The following may be depended upon as a perfectly safe and convenient mode of guarding the lungs, while threshing, as I have tested it for several years, and never knew it to fail—Take a piece of fine sponge, about two inches thick in the centre, and about four inches broad; cut out a little in the centre, so that it will fit the nose and mouth, leaving it about three-fourths of an inch thick over the end of the nose and mouth; moisten it well and squeeze it out, so as to prevent its dripping; fasten a string to the outer edge of the sponge, on each side of the face, and tie it back of the head, and one can work in a perfect manner for hours. I might say days, without any of those disagreeable sensations that are always experienced without such precaution. This will not obstruct the breath one tenth part so much as a piece of gauze will when drawn over the face. I would rather give one dollar per day, for a good sponge, than to tend a threshing machine without it. [American Agriculturist.]

BATH AND AUGUSTA TELEGRAPH LINE.

We take pleasure in announcing that the stock for a Telegraph Line from Bath to Augusta has been subscribed for, and that it will be constructed as soon as possible after the frost is out of the ground. The business of the Kennebec has long needed a more speedy method of communication



R. EATON, Proprietor. E. HOLMES, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 11, 1850.

Where's the Money?

The cry of "hard times," means that there is a scarcity of money. Every one knows that money—that is, those substances which by public consent are used as currency, such as gold, silver or copper coin, or their representatives, bank-bills, are, at times, more scarce than at other times. This is emphatically the case at the present time. It is a universal complaint that the times are hard—there is but little money in circulation. What has become of it? It is not annihilated; nor is it probably hoarded up in any of the vaults and coffers—in this State at least. What, then, has become of it? It is sent off out of the country. Although not connected, and but little acquainted with the details of operations "on change," yet nevertheless may be allowed to hazard a guess that the balance of trade is against us. By this, we mean that we have bought of others more than we have sold to them, and have therefore been under the necessity of sending off the cash to pay the balance. In addition to the usual trade with foreign countries, from which we have probably imported more than we have exported, we have another source of expenditure within our own borders, but on the other side of the continent, as yet, have returned to us; viz., California. So we have two channels of money acting on our monetary system—a hard currency in Europe who are clothing all our spare change, and a poor debtor in California who has not sent out gold enough to pay for half that has been sent to him. Probably gold enough for this has been dug there, but the most of it has been sent to Europe, for two reasons: 1st, to pay debts there, and 2d, because they give more for gold in England than they do here. If we are not mistaken, the Bank of England is bound by law to allow a certain price, per ounce, or pound, for standard gold, whether it be plenty or scarce, and that price is more than is allowed here. On this account, their vaults are now crammed to bursting with bullion, and she begins to complain that the obligation is a hard one, and she wants to be excused from paying that price any longer.

These views pertain to our money matters in a national point of view.

There is another view to be taken of this matter, and that is as it regards the circulation in our own State.

Are our business arrangements, and our monetary institutions here in Maine, such as are best calculated to take the greatest advantage of Maine? That is the "great question."

The true answer to it would involve a greater extent of statistical knowledge respecting the business operations of the State—the manner of financing among us, and other important items of our political economy, than we have as yet acquired, or have the means to acquire.

It is a question, the right solution of which is of vast importance to our prosperity as a State, and we wish some one who has the leisure and the facts on hand, would turn his attention to it, and give the public the benefit of his researches. We may be better able to say more upon it hereafter, and our remarks will be based upon two positions: 1st, We depend too much upon the operations of Boston and New York for supplies, viz., by ship or by rail, to Maine merchants, on our seaboard, much of those same supplies would be brought direct to our own State, and the profits which now go to the Boston and New York importers, might be saved within our borders, and put in circulation near home. 2d, We have not banks, or in other words, circulating medium enough for the amount of business done in Maine.

We must drop the subject here until our next.

In the meantime we invite those who are interested and intimate with these subjects, to give us a helping hand.

FIRE IN MACHIAS. We learn from the Eastern Sentinel that a fire broke out in the store of P. E. Donworth, at Machias, on the evening of the 27th ult. The fire engine was brought to the spot, and had just begun to play, when a tremendous explosion took place in the building, tearing the roof into fragments, which fell in all directions. There were hundreds of persons on different sides of the building, upon the wharf and in the street, and even three or four persons in the building itself, at the time of the explosion, and yet no one was injured. It appears that four kegs of powder had been placed in the attic, and the fire penetrated the shingles and hence the explosion. All the windows in the store were broken, and the whole building a good deal shattered. The fire was extinguished soon after the explosion, and the goods in the store suffered no material damage. It is supposed that the fire was caused by the carelessness of some persons smoking or lighting matches at the foot of the stairs.

DEATH OF MISS CHAPMAN. We learn that Miss Chapman, an account of whose leaving the California Packet in Boston harbor, we gave a short time since, is dead. She was several hours in the Pilot boat before reaching the wharf, during which time she became badly chilled. She proceeded to the American hotel, and the next day took the cars to return to her home in Waterville. Feeling seriously unwell, she stopped at Newburyport and applied to Dr. Atkinson, a relative of her father, for medical aid. The family kindly detained her, and the next day she was taken severely ill of lung fever, of which she died on the 23d ult. Her remains were conveyed to W. by the cars on Tuesday, and her funeral was attended by many sympathizing friends at her father's house. Such is the termination of the little romance which has secured so wide a circulation through the public press.

OPENING OF NAVIGATION. The ice left the Kennebec last week, and the river is now open for navigation. The ice fairly melted or wore away, there being but little frost to break it up. The steamer Lawrence, which, we understand, is to run between this place and Bath the ensuing season, made her first appearance at our wharves on Saturday evening, and left for Bath on Monday morning.

UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY. Rev. Zenna Thompson, late of Bridgton, commenced his labors last Sunday, as pastor of the Universalist Society in this city. Rev. Mr. Dillingham, the late pastor, has removed to Dover, Me., to take the pastoral charge of the Universalist Society in that place.

How to obtain Early Plants.

While in a neighboring country, last summer, we saw in the garden of our friend, Mr. C., some tomato and other plants which were more forward and flourishing than any we had noticed elsewhere. As he had no hot-bed, we inquired how he managed to obtain such plants, and he learned that he pursued the following method. Quite early in the season he procured strips of birch-bark, which he formed into roundish boxes, three inches in length, open at both ends, and large enough to hold about half a pint of soil. This was done by basting together the ends of a piece of bark of suitable size. These boxes were filled with good, rich soil, and placed with one of the open ends downward, in a shallow wooden box, and pressed close together, so as to enclose the whole space. In each of these boxes or compartments seeds enough were planted to secure one healthy plant, and the wooden box containing them was kept in a warm room. The plants were thus brought forward rapidly, and when the season was sufficiently advanced, they were transplanted into the places they were to occupy in the garden, by putting a trowel or piece of shingle under each plant, and removing it separately, leaving it enclosed by the bark in the soil in which it grew, transplanting it bark and soil together. By this means the growth of the plants is not in the least retarded by removal, and they will come to maturity much earlier than when they are transplanted by the ordinary methods.

Moose Steak and Moosehead Lake.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Joseph Chandler, of Wayne, for some excellent steak from an Indian who would call "younger moose," which he brought from Moosehead Lake last week. This noble Lake is bound to be a great place of resort both in summer and winter. Although far away in the wilderness, it is, in summer, visited by hundreds from distant States, for the purpose of enjoying the scenery and the recreation which a jaunt up and down the Lake in the steamboat which plies there, affords. In the winter it is thronged by hundreds, also from distant States, who go there for the purpose of catching the splendid lake trout which abound there, and also of hunting the Moose, Caribou, and other "game animals" that abound in the adjoining forest.

TABER'S NURSERY. Those who are in want of fruit trees, are referred to the advertisement of D. & S. N. Taber, in another column. We have dealt with the Messrs. Taber, and can confidently recommend the firm as one to which reliance can be placed. Their trees are good, and they are careful in taking up and packing. There is a great advantage in getting your trees transplanted early, and if you go after them yourselves, and would avoid the expense of packing, which is, of course, an extra expense, take with you a rug or mat to cover up the roots, and be careful not to let the sun shine too bright and warm upon them. Indeed, the sun has no business to see them at all. If you have a farm and no orchard, begin one immediately, by sending to Taber, and getting some first rate trees. If you have only a small patch of land, look about it and see if you cannot find a nook or a corner that will hold an apple or pear tree, and be sure and put it in.

THE STEAMER LAWRENCE. This is the name of a beautiful steamboat, that has just commenced running from Augusta to Bath, on hours to connect with the Railroad in that place. She has good accommodations, and is neat, pleasant, airy, and strong. She is commanded by Capt. Brackett, an obliging and gentlemanly person, well known as the former captain of the Halifax, which plied last year between Waterville and Bath.

DENTISTRY. Those in Winthrop and vicinity, who are suffering with decayed teeth, and the various pains and ills which they produce, are referred to Mr. Filchburn's notice on another page. We saw some very excellent work in his office the other day, and from long acquaintance with him, can recommend him as a careful operator.

FIRE IN GARDINER. We learn that the saw and blind factory of N. O. Mitchell, in Gardiner, was consumed by fire, on Saturday evening last. Loss about \$1000.

LAUNCH. The Brig Thos. W. Smith, of one hundred and thirty-nine tons burthen, was launched, on Saturday last, from the yard of Master Jones, on the East side of the river, at this place. We learn that this brig is intended as a packet, to run between Augusta and New York.

A FINE PIG. Capt. David Call, of Gardiner, killed a pig on the 26th ult., which weighed four hundred and six pounds, at eleven months old.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

All at the Printing Office.

I have frequently been amused in reading the complaints from the Editorial department, of measure fare and incessant toll, supposing it answered to fill an empty place on the sheet, without once suspecting there was much labor about it; but having lately called at the Farmer office, and, by the politeness of one of the functionaries, had an opportunity, for the first time, of seeing some of the operations of printing, I am willing to acknowledge, that it is something like work, and I think turning that big wheel would be likely to give one an appetite for his dinner, even if it did not chance to be a fat turkey. But if there are any that are delinquent in paying for their paper, I would suggest that they step into a printing office and spend an hour, and see if they do not, by a kind of instinct, find their hands in their pockets, searching for change; as I perceived one poor fellow was so conscience-stricken while there, that he urged the acceptance of an article that Dr. Johnson would consider a luxury; and, from his anxiety to leave it, I should think that those carcasses he carried kept thumping at his conscience, like the Rochester ghost, until he spelt "Pay the Printer."

Sunday, March, 1850.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

A Good Beef Cow.

Ma. Editor.—Parker & Tuck, of this town, slaughtered a cow in December last, which weighed as follows:

Hind quarters,	373 lbs.
Fore quarters,	369
Hide,	107
Tallow,	38
Meat of head, tongue, heart, &c.,	50
Total,	935 lbs.

She was half Durham, was dried last September, had no feed but hay and grass, was four years old past, and her girth was six feet and six inches.

Yours truly,

STEVENS C. TUCK.

Feby, March 30, 1850.

SPRITZ. The total amount of specie in the New York City banks on the 26th ult., was \$7,109,000. The amount in the sub-treasury, including unpaid interest, was \$4,365,000. Total \$11,474,000, which exceeds by over one million on the amount on hand on the 19th of January.

A Month Later From California.

Arrival of the Empire City. The Steamer Empire City arrived at New York from Chagres, on Friday afternoon last, with one month later intelligence from California. She has one million fifty three thousand seven hundred and eighty three dollars in gold dust.

The steamship Oregon left San Francisco on the 1st of March, and arrived at Panama the 20th, with 292 passengers, and \$1,300,000 of gold dust on freight, and \$1,000,000 in the hands of the passengers. Many of the passengers were from Chagres, from New York, reached San Francisco in thirty-six days from the United States.

The Cherokee brings the mails from San Francisco to March 1st. The letter mail contains 30,000 letters.

A large fire occurred at Chagres on the evening of March 23, by which the most of the old town of Chagres was consumed. Much property was lost by the natives.

The U. S. ship-of-war Palmetto was at Mazatlan on the 10th of March, to sail on a cruise in a few days.

The Oregon leaves Panama, for San Francisco, on the first of May.

One passenger, who came down in the Oregon, has a lump of gold weighing 14 lbs, and has been offered \$4000 for it.

Gen. Cordero, the Mexican boundary commissioner, and suite, were passengers in the Oregon from San Diego to San Francisco, on their way to the city of Mexico. The Commissioners have concluded their labors on the Pacific side, and adjourned to meet again in November at Paso del Norte. Col. Miller has transferred the business of the Commission to Major Emery, and has left for San Francisco.

The quantity of gold dust in possession of the miners was very large, and they were taking advantage of the weather to bring it down to San Francisco, and the quantity of gold dust, it is supposed, will bring a higher price than it has yet been offered for by any one steamer.

It was quite healthy at San Francisco and Sacramento city. Business was assuming a very active appearance. Since the steamers have retired, much of the gold dust has been sold. Lumber of all kinds was arriving in large quantities, and prices had materially declined. Good lumber could be purchased at \$85 per thousand feet.

The new State has been unexpectedly destitute of domestic news since the sailing of the February steamer. Events which at that time promised speedy fruition, and which on account of their exciting inception bore some hope for production, have been delayed, and the result is a state of indifference, which seems to enter into the composition of California affairs, or have proved that inflated monsters, too ethereal, if lasting, to deserve attention in this far off corner of the world.

The rivers of the Sacramento valley tributary to the noble stream which courses through its midst, have sunk back into their rocky beds, and the towns along their banks are left high, dry and inaccessible. Since the steamers have retired, business has returned, and in Sacramento City town lots which during the freshet maintained inflated prices, are every day increasing in value. The public-spirited citizens of that municipality have taken measures against the occurrence of a recurrence of late, and it is believed no difficulty will be experienced in raising the necessary sum for constructing levees along the river's banks. The estimated cost of the work is nearly a million dollars. The authorities are endeavoring to have the lands on the river to be cleared for the purpose. [Alta California, March 1.]

The Commercial Advertiser has the following letter:

"SACRAMENTO, March 1st. Business is reviving for the Spring trade, and the miners are coming down for supplies and others are leaving for the mines. The yield of gold is about as large as in the summer of 1848, and as large as at any time last year. The rains of winter have done all that could be desired. There is a steady increase in new bars and developing gold, and unexplored diggings. The health at the mines was generally good. There is the usual amount of sickness on the banks of the Sacramento and San Joaquin. In San Francisco there is a steady increase from exposure and insufficient lodgings. Still San Francisco is generally healthy. No place is healthier for those who have means for comfortable living and good habits. The export trade has wonderfully increased, within six or eight months. Street after street is rising, and many substantial brick buildings are erecting.

The Pacific News, of the 1st March, says the influx of population continues, and San Francisco grows with the same rapidity, and towns are springing up all over the land.

Stockton, Feb. 15th. Information from the Southern mines is generally encouraging. The miners are in excellent health and spirits, and having passed a pleasant winter in their mountain haunts. Provisions were generally plenty, and not dear. New diggings have been discovered on almost every stream and mountain, and miners were only waiting for settled weather. The large number of persons congregated in any single section of the Southern mines is in the Mariposa country. The whole region of country extending from Mariposa to Fresno, exhibits externally better evidences of gold than any other section of the Southern mines. It is said that a 93 pound lump has been found near the Stanislaus.

Governor Barnett transmitted a message to the Legislature on the 23d of February, relative to the proposition from the State of Deseret, asking for the call of a new convention, to be composed of delegates from all California, on both sides of the mountains, in the spring, to decide upon the present one State, to cover the whole territory, and upon certain boundary lines which shall separate California from Deseret. The Governor, in the message, is optimistic and presents a proposition should not be complied with. The message and accompanying documents were laid on the table.

The following are salaries appointed for State officers by the General Assembly: Governor, \$10,000 per annum; Secretary of State, \$7,000; Surveyor, \$7,000; Comptroller, \$6,000; Treasurer, \$8,000; Attorney General, \$7,000; Chief Justice and each Associate Justice, \$10,000; each District Attorney, \$2,000; State Translator, \$8,000; Governor's private Secretary, \$1,000.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS. Bricks are in demand. Boards—no sale for thick; thin of all dimensions are in demand, and commanding good prices. Clothing—no sale. Gold dust—no sale. Domestic goods remain the same, without transactions. Fish—No 1 Mackerel scarce and rising. Fruits are scarce and not in usual demand. Furniture very high. Hardware—A large quantity of goods, and good rates obtained for immediate want. The rates of sale. The low rates of labor and abundance of lumber have caused preference for temporary erection of buildings, according to taste; all other building is slow. Sugar is scarce, though no material change in prices. For Preserved Meats, the old prices are maintained, now that there is a demand for the same. Provisions—Prime Pork has varied. Sales on board at \$27. Prime Beef—no sale. Sale of Mutton at \$12 a lb. Bacon at 35c per lb. Butter has declined to 90c. Potatoes of good quality command 14c. Hams 30c.

SHIP NEWS. In the ship news, we notice the arrival of the following vessels from this State: Nathaniel Rogers, Griffin, Eastport, June 10; Big Ruth, Stevens, Portland, Sept. 18; Bark Corbin, Lang, Portland, Aug. 22; Aro Rio, Clark, Bangor, July 28; Bark Rio Grande, Thomsen, Bangor, Aug. 22; Sarah Moores, Seaboard, Bath, Aug. 16.

FIRE AT KENNEBEC. We learn that the cotton and picker factory at Kennebec, was destroyed by fire on Friday morning last. The picker and saw were wholly destroyed, with all the machinery. The machine shop, counting-house, and all the books, were saved. The property was owned in Philadelphia, and insured for \$40,000 as follows: \$15,000 to the Manufacturers, \$10,000 to Merchants, and \$5,000 to the National, Boston, and \$10,000 to the Franklin office, Philadelphia.

ACCIDENT. We learn that Benjamin Weston, Esq., of Madison who has been at work on the new bridge at Norridgewock, was injured in one of his hands by a rope, on Saturday last, so that he lost two of his fingers. It is the only accident that has occurred on the bridge.

[Skeghegan Clarion.]

Gathered News Fragments, &c.

Fatal accident. A young man, named Charles F. Whitney, one of the guards in the Sing Sing Prison, New York, accidentally shot himself, a few days since, with his own carbine. He was carelessly resting his chin on the muzzle of the gun when it exploded; the charge passing through his head, and producing instant death.

Emigration to Virginia. The Syracuse Star states that a number of Onondaga (N. Y.) farmers—including some of the best ones in the county—are contemplating a removal to Virginia. Three or four of them are now on a visit to that State, looking for suitable locations.

Hallowell. At an adjourned town meeting, on the 1st inst., it was voted that the selectmen be directed to petition the Legislature of 1850 for a Charter for the Town of Hallowell. The vote was declared to be unanimous.

Kennebec and Portland Railroad. At a meeting of the stockholders of this road, held at Gardiner, on Tuesday of last week, it was voted that the Directors be authorized to issue, from time to time, stock not exceeding in amount \$300,000, bearing a semi-annual interest of five per cent. This amount, it is supposed, is all that is necessary to finish the road, and open it for travel to this place.

Marine Railway. The Belfast Marine Railway is now completed and in operation. A schooner of seventy-five tons was drawn up in less than two hours on Tuesday. The machinery works admirably.

Fatal Accident. In tearing down a building in Courtland street, New York city, a few days since, a portion of the rear wall fell, burying three persons under the ruins. The master builder, J. Hamilton, through whose carelessness the accident occurred, and John Ackerman, a laborer, were taken out dead. Michael Doherty, a mason, was severely injured, and several other persons were slightly injured.

Fatality. It is said that seven American mechanics were lately induced by an offer of high pay to stop at Chagres to put up a building. Before the building was completed, six of the number were dead. The seventh took passage home in the Empire City, and breathed his last the moment she dropped anchor in New York harbor.

Guadaloupe. This little French island has returned as members elected to the Assembly in the Mother country, two colored men, Pernon and Schueker; the latter a Socialist writer.

Shocking calamity. The house of Mr. James Rouse, of French Creek, Chautauque county, N. Y., was consumed by fire, on Sunday, the 17th ult., and four of his children perished in the flames.

Lake Champlain. The union of Lake Champlain with the river St. Lawrence, a scheme set on foot about a year since, is being vigorously pushed by capitalists and parties interested.

Municipal Election, Portland. On Tuesday last week, Mr. Cabot, Whig, was elected Mayor, and the Whigs elected Aldermen and Councilmen in six out of the seven wards. The election passed off with very little excitement.

African Lake. The great lake discovered in the interior of South Africa, in latitude 19 south, and in longitude 24 east, has since been explored. The vegetation upon its banks is tropical; and the language of the natives upon its shores is unlike that of any other of the African tribes.

Mail carried by dogs. The St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer, has late articles from the Selkirk settlement, by the arrival of an express mail in eighteen days, the sled being drawn by dogs, which traveled fifty miles a day.

Romances. Lamartine has contracted to write twenty volumes of romances, for the sum of \$100,000.

Large robbery. Emile Fernandez, a lad twelve years of age, was robbed at the Louisiana State Bank, New Orleans, a few days since, of \$2510, which he had gone to deposit for his brother.

Session of the Council. An adjourned session of the Executive Council will be held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday, the 16th inst.

Missionary income. The income of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, of England, during the year 1849, was £111,000, or \$500,000. This is an increase of £7,000 over the previous year.

Live stock insurance. A company has been established in Vincennes, (Ind.) which takes risks on live stock.

A petition. At a late meeting of the City Council of Buffalo, New York, a petition from nearly fifteen hundred ladies was presented and read, praying that licenses for the sale of intoxicating drinks be denied, and that every violation of the excise law be rigorously punished.

More gold dust. The ship Montreal arrived at New Bedford, on the 3d inst., from the Sandwich Islands, with a number of packages of gold dust, a portion of which are consigned to Boston merchants.

Capital Punishment. The bill to abolish capital punishment in Ohio, which passed the Senate a few days since, was defeated in the House by indefinite postponement, Jan. 31, noon 24—It seems they are not quite ready for the measure at present.

Fire in New Orleans. On Friday morning, March 29, New Orleans was again visited by a destructive fire, which consumed two hotels and nine other buildings, the loss on which is not far from \$100,000.

Prof. Webster. Petitions to the Governor and Council of Massachusetts have been in circulation in New York and Philadelphia, and have received numerous signatures, praying for the commutation of the sentence of Prof. Webster.

Mortality at sea. Thirty deaths occurred on board the packet ship Siddons, among the steerage passengers, during her last voyage from Liverpool to New York—it is supposed from ship fever.

From Liberia. The latest advices from Liberia are flattering. Agriculture was flourishing, and commerce rapidly augmenting. The Legislature adjourned on the 5th of January. J. J. Roberts had been re-elected President.

Temperature of March. The Portland Advertiser says that the average temperature of March, at that place, this year, was 31.5 degrees; 14 degrees colder than the average of March for the last 31 years.

Dr Webster and Capital Punishment. A writer in the New York Tribune says that Dr. Webster was a somewhat ultra advocate of capital punishment.

Cholera in New Orleans. Private advices from New Orleans state that the cholera has again broken out in that city, and it is feared it would assume an epidemic form.

A dangerous Animal. The elephant Columbus, which killed his keeper at Philadelphia about two years since, had one of his vicious attacks on Saturday, during which he seized his keeper, and threw him a distance of fifteen feet, fortunately without inflicting any serious injury.

English Accuracy. An English paper says that Mr. Webster, the great American statesman, was to be tried in New York, on the 19th of March, for the murder of Judge Parker.

Large Reward. A. M. C. Smith, of the New York special police, has received the sum of \$4000, as a reward for arresting the thieves who stole \$10,000 worth of gold dust some time since, and recovering the property. This is the largest reward that has been offered for such a service since the stealing of the Prince of Orange's jewels.

The prostration of Jamaica. A recent letter from Jamaica states that the poverty and industrial prostration of that island are almost incredible. Since 1832, several hundred estates and sugar plantations, embracing 400,000 acres of the richest land, have been abandoned, throwing out of employment 60,000 or 70,000 laborers.

Brownsville, Texas. A correspondent of a New Orleans paper, writing from Matamoras, says: "The Mexicans are perfectly astonished at the growth of Brownsville—not yet two years old, and numbering 2500 inhabitants. In one year from this time, it will be larger than Matamoras."

Kossuth and his Companions. It was reported in Great Britain, previous to the sailing of the steamer, that Kossuth and the other Hungarian refugees had already been removed from Sumatra to Yarna, where they would forthwith be sent to Kutaya, in Asia Minor.

Telegraph across the Channel. The proposed submarine telegraph between Dover and Calais, is said to be approaching completion. The tower for the battery offices, and general works at Dover, is nearly erected; the insulated wires are in a forward state of progress, and expected to be sunk across the English Channel in the course of the month of April.

Good Fortune. The Chenango Union says that two men named Leach and Callender, who left Smithville in that county three years ago, as private in Gen. Buick's company, have just returned from California—the former with \$80,000 in gold, the latter with evidences of \$50,000 worth of property in San Francisco.

Proceedings in City Council.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, March 27.

An ordinance (offered by Mr. Pinney) authorizing the election and prescribing the duties of City Marshal, was passed by a unanimous vote.

The following officers were chosen in convention of the two wards:

City Assessors: George W. Morton, John Barrows, Timothy Goodrich, Jr. (Mr. Morton subsequently declined serving.)

City Collector: John A. Pettigill.

Sup. School Committee: Alex. Briggs, Albert G. Dole, Philander Peck.

Fire Wardens: J. W. Lawson, S. Cummings, J. Greenleaf Rockwood, Samuel Guild, Wm. Wells, John Arnold, Francis Taylor.

Fire Ladders: Lamont, Williams, Helge, Pinney, and Staples were appointed a committee to report a list of persons for Fireward.

THURSDAY, March 28.

In convention, the following officers were elected: Members of Ward and Block: Tom Haulen, Wm. Doe, James Safford, Thomas Walworth, Jas. Davis, H. Bennett, Stephen W. J. S. Leighton, Philander Percival, Gilman Turner, J. G. Pinney, Levi Whitten, Levi Hicks.

Servants of Justice: Wm. Doe, Lot Haulen, Elmer Smith, J. W. Lawson, J. F. Gannett, E. K. Robinson, E. G. Wall, David Golder, S. C. Gage, R. Abbott, J. S. Watson, J. S. Bennett, S. B. Hoody, Lins, Thos. Little, Abner Cullen, T. C. Allen, A. C. Keyser, L. Williams, James Safford, Orison Correll.

Members of the Board of Health: J. S. Leighton, Charles L. Clark, T. L. Pollard, J. V. Hadley, Cultures of Hope and Science, Freeman Barker, Ezra Emery.

Servants of Justice: Stephen Deering, Jas. Flagg, E. G. Doe, Wm. Thomas.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following had been named:

On Accounts: Aldermen Myrick and Pike; Messrs. Helge, Henry, and Condit.

On Highways: Aldermen Myrick and Pike; Messrs. Helge, Henry, and Condit.

On New Streets and Assessing Damages thereon: Aldermen Helge and Doe; Messrs. Staples, Winslow and Goldthwaite.

On Bells and Clocks: Aldermen Doe and Myrick; Messrs. Goldthwaite, Church and Hoyce.

On Burial Grounds: Aldermen Helge and Myrick; Messrs. Little, Barrow and Savage.

On Finance: Aldermen Cuy and Pike; Messrs. Lamont, Caldwell, Staples and North.

On the City Department: Aldermen Myrick and Doe; Messrs. Wymann, Winslow and Pinney.

On Schools and School Districts: Aldermen Myrick and Doe; Messrs. Robinson, Varney and Church.

On Prisons: Aldermen Barrows and Cuy; Messrs. Helge, McFarland and Caldwell.

On Evicted Ordinances: Aldermen Cuy and Pike; Messrs. Barker, Varney and Little.

On City Buildings and Land: Aldermen Helge and Doe; Messrs. Sawyer, McFarland and Williams.

The Committee on Highways, &c., were directed to report as soon as practicable, a plan for the management of the highways.

The Committee on the Fire Department were directed to report a system of government for the same; also to report the state of the engines and fire apparatus, and all deficiencies in the department, like any other question, simply by years and says, whatever the delay and opposition was. There was no necessity for alarm.

Mr. Shields agreed fully with Mr. Webster, and took leave for tomorrow. Adjourned.

House. The House occupied the morning hour in discussing hemp, without making any progress.

In Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, the consideration of the California bill was resumed. Mr. Green of Missouri, spoke an hour in defending slavery in the territories, against the adoption of the Provision, and against California. He contended that there were no disunionists in the South, and that the Union was in no danger in rights, in defiance of Northern abolitionists or traitors. He suggested the Missouri line.

Mr. Spaulding of New York, followed, and spoke an hour. He defended the President against the charge of double dealing, that age was never represented in the North as being in favor of the Wilcox Provision. He advocated the admission of California warmly, and was frequently interrupted by Mr. McLean, Toombs, and others. He warned the South against the Nashville Convention, Nashville treason. The patriotic President would defend the Union, millions of free men standing by him. Mr. Wallace, of S. C., has the floor. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 5.

SENATE. Mr. Clay presented a petition from Mr. Rudley, asking encouragement for his invention for extinguishing fire in sailing vessels, &c., also one from Henry Grinnell, asking the appointment of officers and seamen for the expedition now being fitted out for the search for Sir John Franklin. He spoke in favor of both petitions, and commended them to the serious attention of the Senate.

Mr. Dickinson reported the deficiency bill, which was made the order of the day for Monday. Mr. Davis moved that the census bill be the order of the day for Tuesday, and the printing resolutions for Wednesday—agreed to. It was voted that when the Senate adjourns, it be to Monday.

House. The House went into Committee of the Whole, and took up the private calendar and disposed of several bills.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT. As the morning train on the Lowell railroad was going up on Friday March 25th, the engine became in some way unmanageable, and the train stopped. The express train following, a messenger was sent back to warn the train, but it was not seen until it was too late to avoid a collision. The engine of the express train ran into the rear car, in which were six passengers. Of these, five were more or less injured, but not seriously. On the rear train, one was injured. The fireman whose arm was fractured. The engine went nearly through the car, penetrating it like a wedge.

DEATHS IN PORTLAND. The number of deaths in the city of Portland for the municipal year, ending March 31st, 1850, was 481. Males, 231; females, 250. Thirteen were over 80 years of age; 44 between 60 and 80; 50 between 40 and 60; 30 between 20 and 40; 71 between 5 and 20, 233 under 5 years.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, April 1.

SENATE. Mr. Butler announced the death of the Hon. John C. Calhoun, and after proffering a eulogy upon him, said the immediate cause of his death was an affection of his heart. He stated that the deceased was perfectly conscious until his end, which he met with confidence and unshaken serenity. He gave a brief outline of his life, offered the usual resolutions, and moved that the Senate attend the funeral at 12 o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. Clay followed, in some touching and beautiful remarks, which drew tears from many eyes.

Mr. Webster next arose, and paid a noble and merited tribute to the dead statesman.

Messrs. Rusk and Clements made some brief remarks.

The Vice President announced the Committee of Arrangements to superintend the funeral services, after which the Senate adjourned.

House. A message was received from the Senate, announcing Mr. Calhoun's death. Mr. Holmes of South Carolina spoke nearly an hour, in a brilliant eulogy upon his character.

Mr. Winthrop followed, briefly but appropriately, amidst profound silence, alluding to his character, and in conclusion said—"May the day never come when we shall be reminded of the great man of the South, whether living or dead, but of Americans and fellow countrymen."

Mr. Venable followed, reading his remarks, and offered resolutions of condolence, &c., which were adopted. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, April 2.

Official business was entirely suspended throughout the day, on account of the funeral of Hon. John C. Calhoun.

WEDNESDAY, April 3.

SENATE. Mr. Cass offered a resolution to publish 10,000 copies of a pamphlet edition of the addresses, and the funeral sermon, upon the death of Mr. Calhoun. Adopted.

Mr. Rusk introduced a bill to reduce postage.

Mr. Webster presented a petition for a change in the duty on railroad iron.

A message was received from the President, covering a communication from the Mexican Minister in relation to the control of her borders by Indians and others; and in answer to a call for information in relation to Austria.

Mr. Baldwin concluded his speech, advocating a judicial tribunal for fugitive slaves, with full powers.

Mr. Underwood followed, supporting the fugitive slave bill, upon which the settlement of the whole question depended. At 4 o'clock he gave way to a motion for adjournment. Mr. Foote notifying that he wanted his order, for a committee of 13, taken up.

House. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and took up the California bill.

Mr. McLean stated the provisions of the Compromise bill to be, to admit California, as a State, and form territorial governments for Utah and New Mexico, without the proviso, pay Texas \$10,000,000, 5 per cent. stock, in certificates of no less than \$500 each. Mr

